Ahmedabad the sale proceeds of the right of occupancy of building sites put up to auction, as has been done at Kurrachee (*vide* page 108 of Mr. Bellasis' account of the Kurrachee Municipality), that body will be willing to defray all the expenses of the survey.

(Signed) T. C. HOPE.

(True copy)
A. GORDON.

No. 3044.

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of the Government of Bombay, in the Revenue Department, dated 9th September 1863.

Read the following letter from Mr. B. H. Ellis, Revenue and Police Commissioner, N.D., No. 1741, dated 27th June 1863 :—

A portion of the land within the walls of the City of Ahmedabad is called Chotee Duskrohee. A correspondence has for some time been going on with regard to the settlement of Chotee Duskrohee, the assessment of land within the city walls being necessarily fixed on different principles from those adopted in assessing lands valuable only for cultivation.

2. In the course of this correspondence Mr. Hope has written as follows :—

No. 272, dated 27th March 1863.

"Independently of the lands termed Chotee Duskrohee there are within the city walls a very large number of open spaces, some with traces of Mahomedan buildings on them, others without; some claimed by various parties, and others not; and further the roads are in many directions so irregular in width that it would be a positive improvement to cut off surplus land and devote it to building purposes.

"3*rd*.—The settlement of Chotee Duskrohee having been so long deferred, and there being no trustworthy record of lands not included in it, while, at the same time, the prosperity of the city is such as to cause a great demand for building sites, houses are springing up in all directions on ground to which the builders have very doubtful titles, or often none at all, cases of encroachment take up a good deal of time of both revenue and municipal authorities, and can rarely be decided satisfactorily; and it is to be feared that many important ones are never reported at all, and the same time the insecurity of tenure and chance of being proceeded against act as a check on the increase of the city.

"4*th*.—In order to remove the latter, and also secure to Government all its rights, it appears very desirable to settle definitely the title to all land—if private, to secure it from interference, and if public, to lay an adequate assessment on it, with provisions for redemption at the option of the holders.

"5*th*.—To this end I would propose that the map showing the lands of Chotee Duskrohee, which the Revenue Survey Department have made, should be completed for the whole city by some competent officer, who should decide, in communication with the Collector and Magistrate, or subject to his confirmation, what land is required, or what should be reserved for streets or squares, and what is the tenure of all the remaining open spaces. This done, the land declared to be Government, or subject to sullamee, should be assessed at suitable rates according to whether it is cultivated or built upon, and permission should be granted to redeem the Government demand on it at so many years' purchase.

"6*th*.—I would further submit for consideration whether the right of occupancy of vacant land should not be put up to auction, and the sale proceeds be ceded to the municipality as has been done at Kurrachee (*vide* Mr. Bellasis' account of the Kurrachee Municipality, page 100) they might be well devoted by that body exclusively to the improvement of the thoroughfares of the city.

"7*th*.—For the duties referred to in para. 5 an officer acquainted with surveying and possessed of intelligence and experience will be required for about one year, his salary might be defrayed by the municipality if the suggestions in para. 6 be approved of."

3. Mr. Hope's proposition may be summed up thus:—

1*st*.—Sanction for a surveyor and establishment, cost to be defrayed by the municipality.

2*nd*.—Permission to the municipality to enjoy the sale proceeds of occupancies, the right of Government being confined to the levy of assessment.

4. I beg to recommend both these propositions for sanction. The rates of Government assessment, and the commutation price in redemption thereof, should be submitted through the Collector and Superintendent of Survey in the same manner as other similar proposals are made.

5. The cost already incurred in the survey of Chotee Duskrohee may be considered as the Government contribution to the general survey of the city.

RESOLUTION.—The proposals in para. 3 of the Revenue Commissioner's letter are sanctioned under the conditions proposed in para. 4.

2. The Collector should resume at once any land required now or prospectively for Government purposes, and the rest may be sold, the municipality receiving the purchase-money and the assessment being reserved to Government The services of Mr. Jordan, Sub-Assistant Superintendent in the Gujrat Survey, should be placed temporarily at the disposal of the Collector and of the Municipality of Ahmedabad to carry out the proposed survey.

Ordered that copies of the above be forwarded to—

The REVENUE COMMISSIONER, N.D.

The GENERAL DEPARTMENT of the SECRETARIAT.

(Signed) A. D. ROBERTSON,
Chief Secretary to Government.

No 1441.

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of the Government of India, Home Department.

Under date Simla, the 17th June 1867.

Read office memorandum from the Financial Department, No. 2083, dated the 17th of April, forwarding, with its enclosures, for an expression of opinion, a letter from the Government of Bombay, No. 4405, dated the 27th of November, relative to the participation of the Municipality of Ahmedabad in the assessment on lands within the city walls, and requesting confirmation of the orders of that Government ceding to the municipality the sale proceeds of the right of occupancy of land situated within the municipal limits.

Remarks.—The facts appear to be briefly these :—

(1.) Within the City of Ahmedabad is a large extent of open land, some cultivated and some valuable at present as building land.

(2.) Some of this land is clearly the property of Government, has always been known to be such, and been dealt with accordingly; some also is unquestionably private property, under various tenures, but a large proportion is of doubtful nature, to which Government has probably a claim; but this portion is in the occupancy of persons who have squatted or have fraudulently acquired possession, or who hold on equally bad titles.